

URBAN BREAKDOWN

Definition: While urbanization in itself is not a problem, uncontrolled city growth can be a hazard to health, the economy and the environment if the ongoing urban expansion is not planned properly taking into account environmental, social and economic needs of the population as well as climate mitigation and adaption.

Each year close to 70 million people¹ move from rural areas to cities, creating the greatest ever influx of people into urban areas². Urbanization in itself is not necessarily a problem. Indeed, it can be argued that having a larger portion of the world's population in cities can make it easier to handle the stresses that a population of more than 7 billion people put on resources and nature. However, for this to be true, and for urban dwellers to live productive fulfilling lives, proper planning is vital. However many cities are today failing in this mammoth and extremely complex task, as they struggle to accommodate the new arriv-

als and to create or maintain functioning infrastructure. Often the result is a breakdown in services and growing slum dwellings.

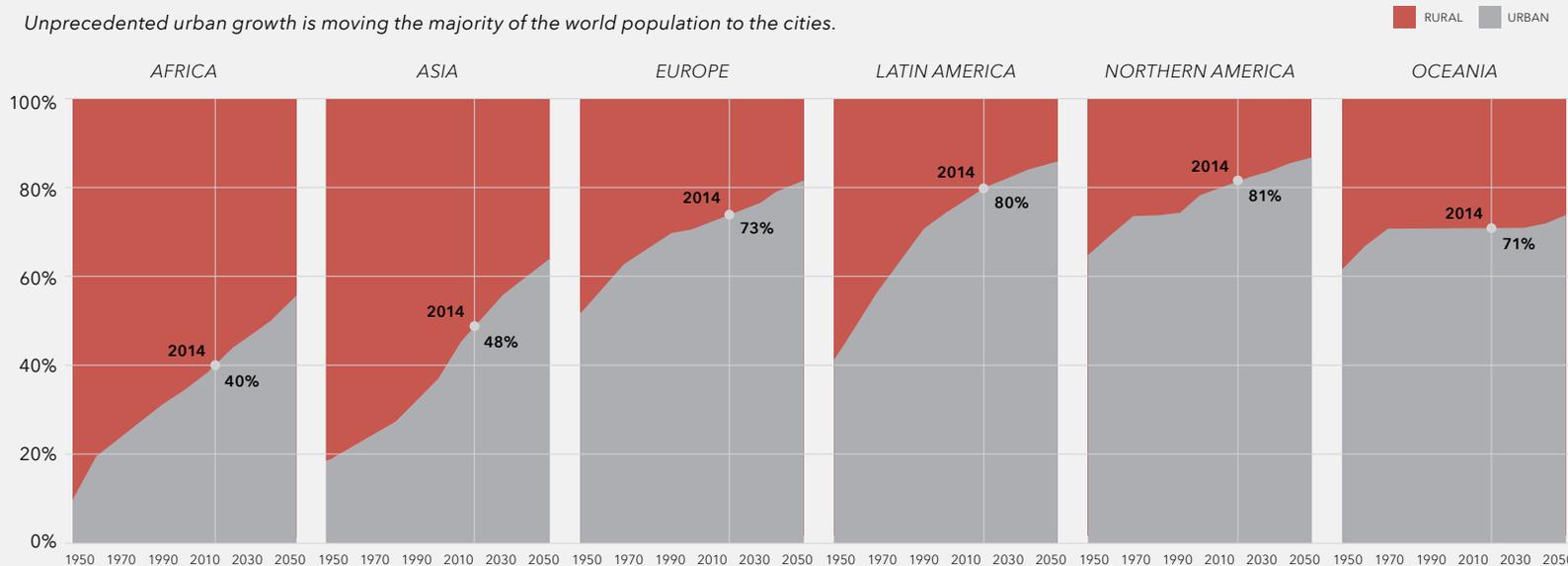
As already stressed, growing cities face another challenge when planning for a future of even more people combined with growing environmental challenges:

- Many cities are situated on the coast or near waterways making them vulnerable to flooding - this will become an increasingly alarming problem as global warming causes sea level rise and more extreme weather.

- Increasing global temperatures make already steamy cities even hotter causing loss of lives and productivity.
- Huge numbers of people living closely together - often without proper sanitation or waste handling - are perfect conditions for disease outbreaks
- Local pollution from industry, traffic, power and heating generation and industry is a major source of illnesses and discomfort.

200,000 PEOPLE WILL MOVE INTO CITIES EVERY DAY³

Unprecedented urban growth is moving the majority of the world population to the cities.



FACTS AND FIGURES

- Urban areas are a key cause of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across multiple sectors and currently account for over 70 pct. of global energy use.⁴
- Of the expected \$80 billion - \$100 billion per year in climate change adaptation costs, up to 80 pct. are expected to be borne in urban areas.⁵
- 400 million urban dwellers are exposed to risks associated with sea-level rise. These risks are most pronounced in the least developed regions of the world.⁶
- The number of city-dwellers without immediate access to tap water and the number of people without access to basic sanitation increased by 20 pct. between 2000 and 2008.⁷

IMPACTS

- An estimated 3,069 people died prematurely in **Hong Kong** in 2012 due to air pollution and 151,300 were hospitalised for pollution-related illnesses.⁸
- In March 2014, after air pollution exceeded safe levels for five days running in **Paris** and surrounding areas, the French government imposed major restrictions on traffic. Public transport was made free of charge for three days in an attempt to encourage people to leave their cars at home.⁹
- If current trends hold, **China's** urban population will hit the one billion mark by 2030. In 20 years, China's cities will have added more than the entire population of the United States today. By 2025, China will have 221 cities with over one million inhabitants—compared with 35 cities of this size in Europe today—and 23 cities with more than five million.¹⁰

¹ CIA. 'The World Fact Book'. Online: www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields/2212.html Accessed 13/08/14 ² United Nations. 'World Urbanization Prospects - The 2011 Revision'. Report. 2012. ³ United Nations. 'World Urbanization Prospects, the 2014 revision'. Online: www.esa.un.org/unpd/wup2014/CD-ROM/WUP2014_XLS_CD_FILES/WUP2014-F19-Urban_Population_Annual.xls Accessed: 13/08/14 ⁴ University of Cambridge. 'Climate Change: Implications for Cities'. 2014. ⁵ UN-Habitat. 'State of the World's Cities 2008/2009: Harmonious Cities'. Earthscan. 2008. ⁶ UN Water. 'World Water Development Report 2012; Joint Monitoring Programme on Water Supply and Sanitation 2013 Update'. Report. 2013. ⁷ Ying-kit, L. 'Hong Kong air pollution causes 3,000 deaths, cost billions annually'. South China Morning Post. Online: www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/article/1128685/air-pollution-causes-3000-

MILLIONS OF HOURS ARE WASTED IN TRAFFIC EVERY DAY AROUND THE GLOBE
 Number of hours spent in the top 10 most congested cities in Europe and the US¹⁰



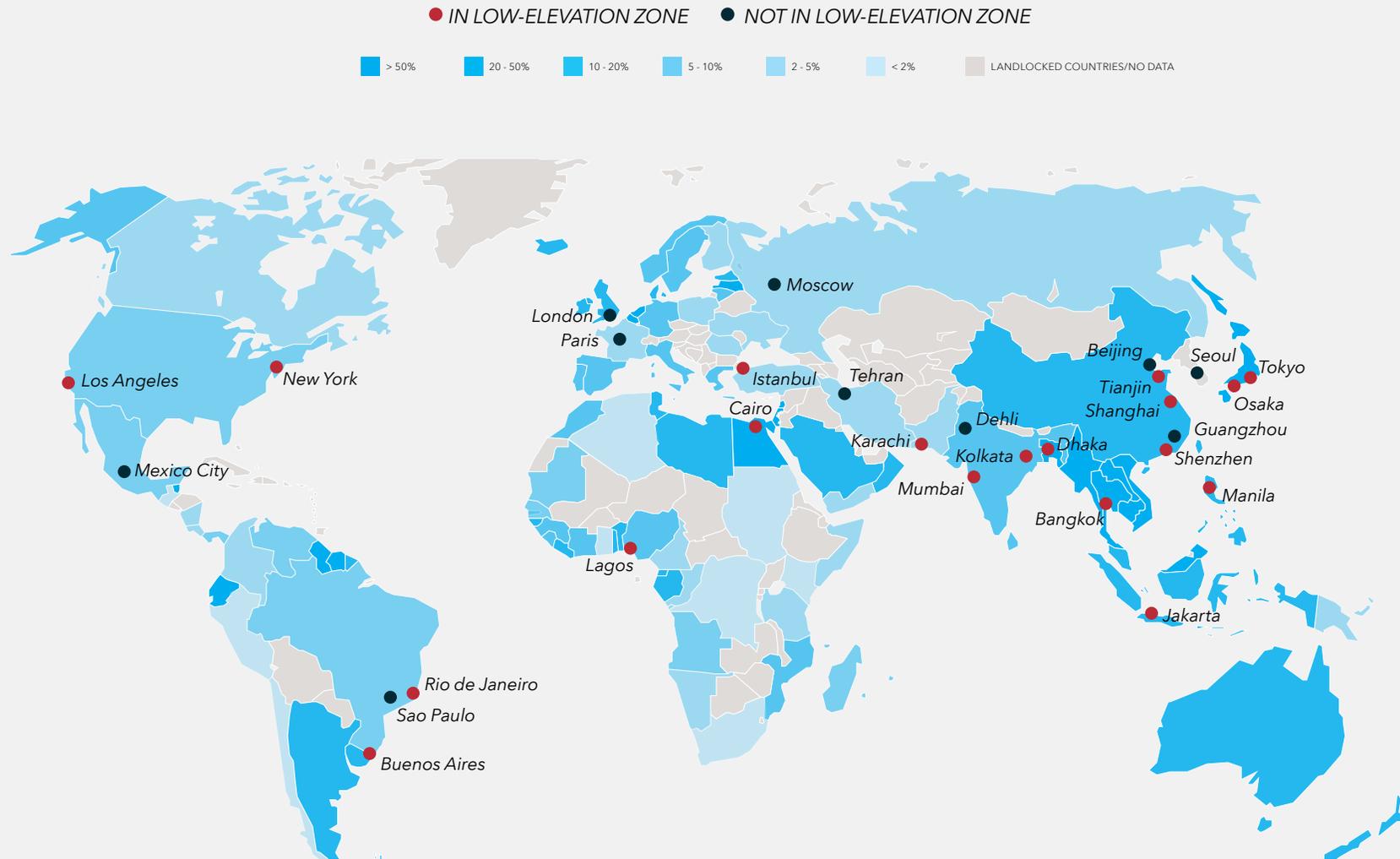
AIR POLLUTION WELL ABOVE SAFE LEVELS
 Cities with the worst outdoor air pollution¹¹
 These cities have the highest average of particulate matter (PM10) measured in micrograms pr. cubic meter of air.



SEVERAL MEGACITIES ARE THREATENED BY SEA-LEVEL RISE AND STORM SURGES

Approximately 360 million urban residents live in coastal areas less than 10 meters above sea level and are vulnerable to flooding and storm surges¹²

Population and Megacities Concentrated in Low-elevation Coastal Zones (<10m)
 Threatened by Sea-level Rise and Storm Surges



deaths-costs-hk39b-annually Accessed 13/08/14 ⁹ BBC. 'Paris car ban imposed after pollution hits high'. 2014. Online: www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-26599010 Accessed 13/08/14 ¹⁰ INRIX. 'Traffic Scorecard'. Online: www.inrix.com/scorecard/keyfindings.asp Accessed 15/08/14 ¹¹ WHO. 'Ambient (outdoor) air pollution database'. May 2014. ¹² World Bank. 'Cities and Climate Change: An Urgent Agenda'. Report. 2010.